were small channels for taking the water stored in the tank to the paddy fields and there were also culverts at intervals. All those channels became useless several years ago and the people were not able to restore them to their former condition.

Besides the above, the wet lands lying near the Attungal and Chittar rivers suffered much during the freshes in those rivers. There were formerly strong river bunds and also culverts where the canals from the paddy fields joined the river. They were non-existent at present.

The circumstances mentioned above contributed to the failure of crops and the consequent poverty of the people. The Member, therefore, suggested that a competent officer might be deputed from the P. W. Department to examine the condition of the tanks, bunds, culverts, etc., which required improvement and submit the necessary estimate with a view to those works being taken in hand and completed with the least possible delay. He added that the ryots were prepared to pay a portion of the expenditure along with the tax in instalments in accordance with the provisions of the Irrigation Regulation.

The Member next complained that the officers of the Agricultural Department did not sufficiently tour in the interior parts of the taluk and that the people did not get much help from the department. He, therefore, suggested—

(1) that the officers of the Agricultural Department be directed to go about the interior parts of the taluk more frequently and advise the ryots to follow improved methods of agriculture;

(2) that a manure depot be opened in the taluk ; and

(3) that the Agricultural Department might take up plots of land at specified places on lease and cultivate them on scientific lines and thus demonstrate to the people in a practical manner the advantages of improved methods of cultivation.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

54. Need for remedying the difficulties incidental to cultivation in the Shencottah taluk.

Mr. S. Kasi Iyer (Member, T. I. C., Shencottah) said that the people of the taluk were mostly agriculturists who depended on their cattle for cultivation. There was no extensive grazing ground, all the lands for a few miles around being registered lands. The Member suggested that some lands on the sides of the hills close by, whether within or without the reserves, be set apart for grazing purposes.

The Member next referred to the difficulty of the ryots in the matter of water supply for agricultural purposes. He said that the jungles on the sides of hill streams had been registered against the orders of Government on the subject and that the registry-holders made clearings with the result that those streams dried up just at the time when water was necessary for agriculture. He also observed that the conservation of those places had been recommended by Mr. Venugopala Aiyar, the Deputy Conservator of Forests. He, therefore, requested that the aforesaid places be conserved in the interests of the agricultural population of the taluk.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

55. Agriculturaldifficulties in the Mavelikara taluk.

Mr. N. G. Parameswaran Pillai (Member, Mavelikara taluk) said that the bulk of the people of the taluk depended on the cultivation of paddy, that the wet lands in the taluk were divided into *virippu*, *punja* and *mundakan* and that most of the *punja* and *mundakan* lands were in the *pakuthis* of Chennithala and Mavelikara and the *virippu* lands in the Thekkekkara and Pallikkal *pakuthis*. The only river in the taluk which helped the agriculturists was the Kollakadavu river. The canals cut from the river in olden times to help cultivation had gradually silted up, rendering cultivation difficult. When the canals were in good condition, the yield from the adjoining wet lands was satisfactory and the assessment fixed on

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the lands was also based upon the then yield of the lands. On account of the unsatisfactory condition of the canals, the present yield had become very poor and the people found it difficult even to pay the Government tax. Year after year the crops failed and the condition of the ryot became precarious. The yield from the land was not sufficient even to meet the cost of cultivation and pay the Government tax. To obviate such evils and to afford sufficient facilities for cultivation, the Member pressed the following points upon the attention of the Government.

Firstly, he spoke of the condition of the Parayankari Canal. That was one of the canals to the south of the Kollakadavu river which connected that river with the Pamba river. The canal was highly useful for cultivating thousands of acres of *punja* lands in the Chennithala *padom*. It was nearly seventy-five years since the above canal had become silted up. There was not even a drop of water in the canal in certain parts of the year. The restoration of the canal formed the subject of representation by the Members of the taluk at several sessions of the Assembly and, as a result thereof, the Government, in their Order No. 4101 A, dated the 12th June 1910, sanctioned the re-cutting and improvement of the canal. An estimate and plan appeared to have been prepared and submitted to the Government by the Chief Engineer. The work was also included as one of the chief irrigation works of the Mavelikara taluk in the list of irrigation works relating to the Quilon Division, prepared at the Irrigation Conference held at the time of the tenth session of the Assembly. The Member knew that the estimate for the work prepared in 1912 was for Rs. 32,040. That amount, having been found to be excessive, the estimate was returned. A revised estimate for Rs. 16,900 was prepared and submitted to Government on the 7th July 1913. When compared with the importance and usefulness of the canal, the above sum was not at all excessive. The Member, therefore, prayed that orders might be issued for improving and restoring the Parayankari Canal at least in the current year.

The Member next spoke about the condition of the canal leading to the north from the Kollakadavu river and running through the western side of the Tharayamukku depot. That was known as the Prayikkara Canal. For the last three or four years, the canal was gradually getting silted up. A distance of about two furlongs at the southern portion of the canal had become completely silted up. Until last year, there was no difficulty for boats to pass through the canal, but, from the month of Dhanu 1092, the boats could not pass. Manure for the *virippu* lands at Onattukara had to be taken from Tiruvalla, Chengannur and other places, in boats through the above canal. The silting up of the canal had made the transport of manure by boat impossible. The lands on either side of the canal were *punja* lands. The lands were also getting silted up by the inrush of sand from the canal. If the reason for the silting up of the canal was not investigated and proper measures not taken to restore the canal in the early stage, the situation would become more difficult later on. The Member was not able to find out the root cause that led to the silting up of the canal. But the following circumstance might have helped the accumulation of sand in the canal, namely, planting up of a number of *Attuvanchi* trees on the northern side of the river about four or five furlongs up the mouth of the canal. During summer months, there was no water in the above portion of the river and that helped the growth of the trees. The trees had attained to good growth. A good portion of the southern side of the river had been washed away in consequence, with the sand and earth which were deposited at the mouth of the canal. The area thus planted up was treated as *poramboke* and several persons including the trespasser had applied for the registry of the land. The Member was of opinion that, if the trees were removed, the southern bank would not be washed away and the accumulation of silt in the canal would cease.

Dewan.—Steps will be taken by the Peishkar to have the trees removed. I also understand from the Peishkar that the applications for the registry of the lands have been dismissed.

The Member added that the silt in the river could also be completely cleared if, during the rainy season, a portion was taken out and the course of the river slightly altered.

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The last point dealt with by the Member related to the huge mass of rocks lying in the river, a little to the east of Kollakadavu. The place where the rocks lay was very narrow. The width of the river to the east of the place was 250 ft; but the width at the place where the rocks lay was barely 100 ft. The western portion of the river was also 5 ft. below the eastern. The water coming from the eastern portion would have freely flowed down but for the rocks and also the narrowness of the passage. As the water could not find sufficient passage for a free flow, it overflowed the banks higher up the rocks and the narrow passage and flooded thousands of paras of *punja* lands on either side of the river. The ryots could not cultivate those wet lands in consequence and were put to heavy loss. The Member, therefore, prayed that the rocks referred to might be ordered to be removed so as to facilitate the free flow of water in the river.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

The Assembly adjourned at 4—55 P. M.

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